

Message Text

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DRAFTED BY EUR/NE APINKNEY:DP

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TO AMEMBASSY OSLO

INFO AMEMBASSY REYKJAVIK

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AMEMBASSY MADRID

AMEMBASSY LISBON

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 061399

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: NO, PFOR, NATO

SUBJECT: THE DEPUTY SECRETARY SEES AMBASSADOR SOMMERFELT
OF NORWAY

1. AMBASSADOR SOMMERFELT SAW THE DEPUTY SECRETARY ON
MARCH 11 ON A VARIETY OF MATTERS. INGERSOLL MENTIONED
FIRST US GRATITUDE FOR THE EFFORTS BEING MADE BY FOREIGN
MINISTER FRYDENLUND TO FIND A WAY OUT OF THE IMPASSE IN
THE UK/ICELAND FISHERIES DISPUTE. THE AMBASSADOR RESPONDED
THAT THESE NEGOTIATIONS WERE SO CONFIDENTIAL THAT EVEN HE
WAS ONLY AWARE OF THE OUTLINES. HE THOUGHT, HOWEVER, THAT
BOTH THE BRITISH AND THE ICELANDERS WERE RESPONDING
FAVORABLY TO THE EFFORTS.

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2. AMBASSADOR SOMMERFELT ASKED IF THE QUESTION OF SPANISH MEMBERSHIP IN NATO WOULD BE TAKEN UP AT THE NATO MINISTERIAL MEETING IN OSLO IN MAY. THE DEPUTY SECRETARY STATED THAT HE DID NOT THINK THAT THE ISSUE WOULD BE PUSHED AT THE MEETING, BUT HE EXPRESSED THE HOPE THAT THERE WOULD BE MOVES IN THE FUTURE BY ALL CONCERNED THAT LEAD TO EVENTUAL MEMBERSHIP FOR SPAIN. BOTH THE AMBASSADOR AND THE DEPUTY SECRETARY EXPRESSED GRATIFICATION THAT EVENTS SEEMED TO BE MOVING WELL IN PORTUGAL AND THAT THE

EUROPEAN SOCIALISTS WERE CONTINUING TO BE SUPPORTIVE OF THE DEMOCRATIC MOVEMENT IN THAT COUNTRY.

3. AMBASSADOR SOMMERFELT INDICATED THAT, IN A CONVERSATION WITH THE SECRETARY THE PREVIOUS EVENING, THE SECRETARY HAD INDICATED THAT HE MIGHT STAY AN EXTRA DAY AND ONE-HALF IN OSLO AT THE CONCLUSION OF THE NATO MINISTERIAL MEETING. THE AMBASSADOR ASKED THAT THE SECRETARY'S PLANS BE CONFIRMED TO HIM AS SOON AS WAS POSSIBLE.

4. SOMMERFELT ASKED FOR AN EVALUATION OF THE RECENT SOVIET PARTY CONGRESS. THE DEPUTY SECRETARY STATED THAT HE DID NOT THINK THAT THE CONGRESS HAD CHANGED THINGS

MUCH. SOMMERFELT AGREED, AND INDICATED THAT HIS GOVERNMENT FELT THAT THE CONGRESS HAD MOVED IN RATHER A CONSERVATIVE DIRECTION. THE AMBASSADOR ENQUIRED IF THE US WAS EXPECTING THE BRESHNEV VISIT DURING THE SUMMER. . INGERSOLL REPLIED THAT IT WOULD DEPEND VERY MUCH ON WHETHER THERE WAS REAL PROGRESS IN THE SALT NEGOTIATIONS.

5. AMBASSADOR SOMMERFELT ASKED HOW THE STUDY ON SVALBARD WAS COMING. INGERSOLL REPLIED THAT IT WOULD

PROBABLY BE GOING TO THE WHITE HOUSE FOR FINAL CONSIDERATION SHORTLY, AND THAT AS SOON AS DECISIONS WERE TAKEN THE DEPARTMENT WOULD BE IN TOUCH WITH THE NORWEGIAN GOVERNMENT. AMBASSADOR SOMMERFELT ASKED IF THE

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FISHERIES DISPUTE BETWEEN ICELAND AND THE UK HAD HAD ANY BEARING UPON THE LENGTH OF TIME THE STUDY WAS TAKING. INGERSOLL SAID NO. HE WENT ON TO STATE THAT HE DID NOT THINK THAT THE STUDY WOULD CAUSE ANY FUNDAMENTAL CHANGE IN THE US RELATIONSHIP WITH THE AREA OR WITH NORWAY, AND HE POINTED OUT THAT THE MOST IMPORTANT ISSUE HAD TO DO WITH THE CONTINENTAL SHELF.

6. AMBASSADOR SOMMERFELT NOTED THAT THERE WOULD BE TWO LAW OF THE SEA MEETINGS THIS YEAR. . INGERSOLL AGREED THAT THE UNITED STATES WAS PREPARED FOR TWO MEETINGS, SHOULD BOTH PROVE NECESSARY, TO REACH AN AGREEMENT. HE ASKED IF THE NORWEGIANS WERE EXPECTING FURTHER NEGOTIATIONS SHORTLY WITH THE SOVIET UNION ON THE QUESTION OF THE CONTINENTAL SHELF BETWEEN THE TWO COUNTRIES IN THE BARENTS SEA. AMBASSADOR SOMMERFELT INDICATED THAT THERE WOULD BE TALKS ON THE DEMARCATION LINE MUCH SOONER THAN HAD BEEN ANTICIPATED AND GAVE THE IMPRESSION THAT THESE COULD ACTUALLY BE IN THE VERY

NEAR FUTURE. SOMMERFELT CHARACTERIZED THE LAST ROUND OF TALKS WITH THE SOVIETS AS "NOT A BAD ROUND." KISSINGER

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